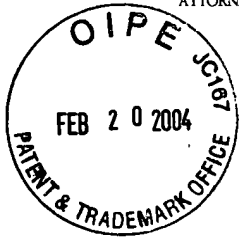


Image

1743

**Vinson & Elkins**  
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February 17, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I, certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450:

February 17, 2004  
Date

*Nicole W. Stafford*  
Nicole W. Stafford

**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: *U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/055,726 "A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING NITROGEN INTERFERENCE IN PYRO-ELECTROCHEMICAL METHODS" by John R. Rhodes; Confirmation No. 8318 Attorney Docket No. SPE503/4-6CIPUS*

Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced patent application are the following:

1. Amendment and Response to Office Action of November 17, 2003;
2. A return postcard to acknowledge receipt of these documents.

If any fees should be deemed due for any reason under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.21, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct the fees from Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 22-0365/SPE503/4-6CIPUS.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nicole W. Stafford*

Nicole W. Stafford  
Reg. No. 43,929

1817:5588

Enclosures

426282\_1.DOC



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

**Spectro Analytical Instruments**

International Serial No.: **10/055,726**

Filing Date: **23 January 2002**

For: **A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
PREVENTING NITROGEN  
INTERFERENCE IN PYRO-  
ELECTROCHEMICAL METHODS**

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Group Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Yelena G. Gakh

Atty Dkt: **SPE503/4-6CIPUS**

Confirmation No.: 8318

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I, certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450:

February 17, 2004  
Date

*Nicole W. Stafford*  
Nicole W. Stafford

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**  
**TO OFFICE ACTION OF NOVEMBER 17, 2003**

**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2003, for which the reply date is February 17, 2004. The current paper is thus believed to be timely filed and no fees are believed to be due with respect to the filing of this paper. If any fees should be deemed due for any reason under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.21, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct the fees from Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 22-0365/SPE503/4-6CIPUS. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.